

The Marden Vale Team Ministry  
Christ Church, Derry Hill – St. John the Baptist, Foxham – St. Martin, Bremhill  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June – Trinity

*This Sunday we are marking Father's Day and celebrating the patronal festival of St. John the Baptist, Foxham*

**Today's service in the Marden Vale Team:**

Family Service from St John the Baptist, Foxham:  
<https://youtu.be/z1eMIJRcREQ>

Also available:

**8.10am** Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4. Images of fatherhood

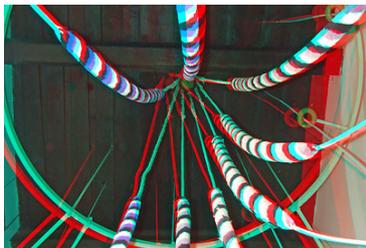
**9am** on [the Church of England's website](http://thechurchofengland.org) led by Father Andrew Moughtin-Mumby, Rector of St Peter's Church, Walworth.

**11.45am** BBC1 Sunday Worship A service for Father's Day from Holy Trinity Platt Church in Manchester

**1.15pm** Songs of Praise on BBC1 with Sean Fletcher

**Bells**

Tune in to 'Bells on Sunday' on Radio 4 at 5.43am: St Mary the Virgin, Chislet, Kent. Or follow this link and listen later online:



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000j139>

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**Light a Candle** May I encourage you to continue this practice of praying, and lighting a candle and placing it in a window as a sign of hope each Sunday evening?

**Father's Day**



This Sunday let's pray and give thanks for fathers, dads, daddies, papas, pops, stepdads, father figures; for the ones we can hug, for those we can only wave to at a distance,

for those who are now a sweet memory. Rejoice and celebrate, or acknowledge sadness or disappointment. And remember we have a heavenly Father too who loves us beyond measure.

**Keeping in touch**

If you are able, please look at the website

[www.mardenvale.org.uk](http://www.mardenvale.org.uk)

and Derry Hill's Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/christchurchdh/posts/>

Contact Linda on 01249 817926 or email

[lindac@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:lindac@mardenvale.org.uk)



**Prayer** Join with the Church of England Daily Prayer by visiting our website: [www.mardenvale.org.uk](http://www.mardenvale.org.uk) and clicking on 'Pray' on the top line.

***In the coming week please also pray for:***

- all who are affected by coronavirus, for all who work on the frontline to keep us safe, to help the sick, to keep us fed...
- those who are anxious, exhausted, isolated. May those whose mental health is fragile be able to access the counselling, medication and support they need
- our local schools: the children and young people, staff and governors. We pray especially for Derry Hill Primary and headteacher Hayley Roberts
- local shops and businesses as they begin to open up...and those hoping to trade again
- Kingston House residents and all who work there
- Lucy Aylen (YWAM) as she leads & teaches at Discipleship Training School
- the work of Christian Aid
- our brothers and sisters in Sudan & South Sudan; in Yemen
- all who are sick, awaiting diagnosis, those in hospital. Especially we pray for: **Mark Steele, Christine Gundry, Mark Jennings, Lynne Cottrell, Rob Simons, Len Jones, Jacob Maloy, Paul Crayford, Jennifer Pope, Helen Lewis, Jackson Goodship, Jane Jordan, Angela Barker, Liz Kinch, Doreen Williams, Bill Norman, Brenda Beint, Peter Lansdell, Sonia Strange, and Barbara Starr.**
- All who have recently died, the bereaved, & all whose anniversary of death falls at this time. We remember especially Ruth Brenton.
- **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), The Most Revd Henry Chukwudum Ndukuba - Metropolitan & Primate of all Nigeria & Bishop of Abuja.

**Calne Food Bank** is currently based at Church House, 30 Church St., Calne. 12-4pm on Tuesdays and Fridays.

<https://www.calnefoodbank.co.uk>

## Readings and Prayers for today's services:

### Luke 1:57-66,80

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

### Collect

Almighty God,  
by whose providence your servant John the Baptist  
was wonderfully born,  
and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour  
by the preaching of repentance:  
lead us to repent according to his preaching  
and, after his example,  
constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice,  
and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

There is an ancient tradition of marking St. John's Eve with the lighting of bonfires. As with many of our traditions, lighting bonfires or beacons is pre-Christian, and has been 'adopted' as a way of celebrating a Christian feast – in this case the birth of John the Baptist. It is Midsummer and the old pagan celebrations remind us of the significance of the sun and light. John pointed to the light that was coming into the world. John's message was clear and unequivocal. His manner did not sit comfortably with everyone; speaking truth to power rarely does. So for me, fire goes well with John – the true, pure, flaming, cleansing heat of the message that poverty, hunger, injustice and inequity would not have the final word because the true light was coming, burned brightly in this prophet. And when his father Zechariah could finally speak, he prophesied:

"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins." *Luke 1:76-77*

I wonder, did Zechariah have any idea where this would take his son?

And my sisters and brothers, I believe now more than ever we need to speak and act. And the true Light, Jesus entrusts us, ordinary, imperfect people to be messengers of hope and truth, wherever that takes us.

*"Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in"*

*'Anthem' by Leonard Cohen*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48AJBxs5dNc>

## ***We are pleased to welcome you to pray in church***

**Christ Church, Derry Hill is open for individual, private prayer from today, 21<sup>st</sup> June, for a maximum of 4 people at any one time**

The church will be open at the following times:

**Sunday: midday to 4pm**

**Tuesday to Saturday: 10am to 4pm**

### ***Please do:***

- ✓ use hand sanitiser (provided at entrance and exit)
- ✓ observe 2m social distance
- ✓ use the chairs at the front of church
- ✓ exit by the sanctuary door (front left of church)

### ***Please note:***

- there is no access to Toilet, Kitchen, Choir Vestry, Balcony, Font area, Children's Area or Pews
- avoid using altar rail
- wipes are available for chairs

***Please do not attend*** if you have symptoms of COVID-19 (new continuous cough, high temperature, loss of or change in your normal sense of taste or smell)

You will notice that no Bibles, books, leaflets, devotional items, candles, lighters, pens etc are available. This is to minimise any risk of transmission of COVID-19.

External and internal doors will be kept open to minimise the need to touch door handles.

All accessible areas will be cleaned when the church is closed each day.

As Christ Church will be open for between 4-6 hours six days a week there should be ample opportunity for people to find the time and space to feel comfortable in this sacred space.

We will continue to review our arrangements with reference to Diocesan, Church of England and Government advice.

***Thank you  
Rev. Linda Carter and Derry Hill PCC***